

# THE LABOUR ORGANISER

No. 20

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Price 4d.

## OUT OF THE RUT

### IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF.

Among a batch of interesting and effective election literature that has reached us from Agent E. J. Alford, of Rochdale, we note the use of a convenient device for distinguishing men and women voters who have polled and whose poll cards are handed in to the number-taker. The poll card has been printed with a tear-off portion at the top, the right hand corner having been clipped for male voters, and the left hand corner clipped for women voters. It is claimed that in practice this convenience assists the committee room clerk and that it aids in endeavours to poll all the votes of a household. Certainly with departmentalised organisation in a committee room the plan should facilitate matters and help to a higher percentage.

The Election Address in news sheet form, with the addition to it of other bright and readable matter is a commendable innovation. We have noted with interest that this was done by the candidates for the Urban District Council and Board of Guardians in Walthamstow, where our friends, Mr. S. J. Donoghue and Mr. E. C. Fairchild respectively controlled the organisation in the East and West Divisions. We gather that beyond a final handbill no other printing was found to be necessary.

Another batch of interesting literature has reached us from Agent H. E. Scrivener, of Enfield. In this area Labour was badly defeated, but the literature should not be discounted in consequence. We note that attention was given to the important question of providing points for canvassers, and while canvassers were wisely informed that an election canvass is not the time to waste time in arguments, they were fully equipped with information on

points on which questions might be asked or from which capital could be obtained.

A number of organisers in County constituencies are now using motor cycles or combinations for getting about their constituencies, and have proved these conveyances to be of great advantage to them in their work. In some cases motor cycles have been provided by the organisations responsible, but no standard arrangement seems yet to have been come to. In a recent case in which we were consulted, the Local Party had originally proposed the purchase of a motor cycle and sidecar which would be used by the agent on his visits throughout the constituency and for the purpose of conveying speakers to country meetings. The difficulties of securing an equitable arrangement with the agent were many, and the agent now proposes to purchase a small car, in respect to which the Local Party are agreeable to make an allowance of 6d. per mile, thus effecting a considerable saving on their present heavy charges for motor conveyances. The arrangement does not err on the side of generosity, and considerable ignorance prevails among the uninitiated as to total cost of running any sort of motor conveyance. As a matter of fact, when replacements are borne in mind the cost of running the cheapest motor cycle or combination will not be less than 2½d. or 3d. per mile, this taking no account of depreciation. On the other hand, the gain in mobility and health and pleasure to be obtained should make the proposition an attractive one, and in view of the recent considerable reductions in prices the number of constituencies in which motor cycles are used should this year largely increase.

Labour in the Ilkeston Division is always alive to its opportunities. The recent County Council Elections were responsible for the production of a leaflet in which "Put and Take"

played a prominent part. We reproduce below one or two extracts, and that the workers took the tip was evident by the result, for Labour won on a vote of 1,610 to 1,296.

### PUT AND TAKE.

PUT your shoulder to the wheel of Progress and TAKE your part in LABOUR'S GREAT ADVENTURE.

PUT your own Representatives on all local bodies and TAKE the rest for granted.

PUT your serious thoughts on Politics and TAKE steps to usher in a BETTER STANDARD OF LIFE for the Workers—*hand and brain.*

PUT your energies into local political activities and TAKE your share in abolishing Unemployment and the glaring anomalies, hardships and inequalities which abound.

PUT your foot down on the proposal to rob the workers' child of Education and TAKE the Geddes' Report for what it is worth.

PUT your Name on an INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP Form of the Local Labour Party and TAKE 1/- or more to the Treasurer, G. Daley, 34, Wall Street, H. Parkin, Ivy Grove, G. Draycott (secretary), 66, Mosley Street, or Mrs. E. Walters, Booth Street, Ripley (secretary of the Women's Section).

Among the same literature we note a greatly improved Canvasser's introduction card, which we believe was copied in some recent By-Elections, and which we understand has become a feature in Rochdale canvassing, the card being looked for and demanded by the canvassers on each occasion. The introduction card is a little folder roughly 4½ ins. by 2½ ins. The front bears the compliments of the Labour Party with a reminder that representatives have called upon the voter that day. The back of the Rochdale card

bears the same wording, but in the Clayton By-Election we note that the fourth page of the card was used for a list of committee rooms. The inside of the card is well worth reproduction, and we do not think the terse and telling wording could be improved upon. For convenience, the second and third pages of the folder are reproduced below under one another.

### TO LABOUR SUPPORTERS:

We look to you to register your vote as early as possible on Polling Day.

If you are able to assist us call at any of our Committee Rooms, but in any case an

### *Early Visit to the Polling Booth*

on your own part, and on the part of as many Labour Voters as you can influence, will materially lighten our work on the last day, and save you from being called upon again.

VOTE FOR  
JONES

THE LABOUR CANDIDATE  
AND VOTE EARLY.

### THOSE WHO ARE NOT FOR US ARE AGAINST US.

The VOTE is the Workers' only Political Weapon; it is of no use to you if you do not use it. Fight for your rights, but be sure that you

### *Fight on the Right Side.*

The STRIKE is your Industrial Weapon.

By VOTING you may avoid the necessity of STRIKING. Try it, and

VOTE FOR  
JONES

THE LABOUR CANDIDATE.



The London County Council Elections were responsible for the production of several modern and effective leaflets by the London Labour Party. These leaflets were a marked advance in interest and typography on the ordinary election leaflet, and the use of a few small cuts added to their attractiveness. A standardised election address was also run which permitted of certain local alterations. We understand that no less than 18 constituencies were covered by this address. An outstanding feature, however, of the London Labour Party's election literature were two strikingly effective 16-sheet coloured litho posters. These, besides being a considerable aid to the candidates in the field, were a contribution to the endeavours that are being made to bring the election literature of the Party into line with the best and the most modern advertising literature of the hour. The results of the L.C.C. Elections are referred to elsewhere.

It is the little things that count, and when we received an envelope one morning bearing a red seal with the word IMPORTANT thereon, that letter excited curiosity and got opened first. There was a notice inside of a meeting, and this notice also bore a red seal, and was a perpetual reminder all the time the notice remained amongst other papers on the desk. One supposes that this little seal would have a similar psychological effect upon all people who received it, and until the idea gets stale would excite some comment and special remembrance of the meeting with which it was concerned. The idea is not new but the application is, and the credit is due to Mr. Lionel Horne, the agent of the Cirencester Division. There are many ways of getting special attention to one's correspondence and this is one. Some people adopt striking or distinctive letter heads, special colours of paper, etc., while divers ways are adopted for giving special emphasis when it is desired to make a certain meeting particularly well attended. To insure success one must be prepared to sometimes get "out of the rut" and away from the stereotyped and somnolent forms by which meetings are so often convened.

## THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (No. 2.) BILL

### SOME IMPORTANT CHANGES.

The Bill now before Parliament entitled as above, is of considerable importance to Parliamentary candidates and agents. The Bill was originally intended to alter certain dates prescribed by the R.P. Act, 1918, in connection with the Registration of Electors, and to prevent increases in postal rates for printed packets being reckoned for the purpose of any limit on the amount of the expenses of candidates at elections, and to amend section fifty-four of the Local Government Act, 1888.

Clause 1 of the Bill fixes the registration date as statutory. Certain dates were inserted in the 1918 Act, and in practice these were not found convenient. Power under that Act was reserved to the Secretary of State to alter these dates by Order in Council, and the dates have been so altered for the half-yearly registrations since 1918. The result has been a certain amount of confusion which the Bill will remedy.

Clause 2 of the Bill is the result of the increased postage. When the 1918 Act was passed and the scale of expenses was included, cheaper rates of postage were in operation, but considerable increases since have materially affected the actual limit of expenditure permitted to a candidate. The original Bill provided that in calculating the cost of postage only so much of what was expended should rank against the limit as would have been expended had the older postal rates been in operation. This clause was knocked out in committee and the Bill is at the moment awaiting its report stage, and there is an amendment to reinsert this clause. It seems hardly likely, however, in view of the Budget reductions that this particular clause will secure reinsertion.

Clause 3 of the Bill is for the purpose of facilitating the readjustment of boundaries of Electoral Divisions for County Councils and effects a desirable reform.

The above Bill, when it becomes law, will be reprinted in the "Labour Organiser," together with its schedule of dates.

## THE PRINCIPLES OF PARTY ORGANISATION

### III.

BY THE EDITOR.

*(Continued from January issue).*

We have examined certain of the fundamental differences which distinguish the Labour Party problem in organisation from that of its rivals, and we have also seen that several changes in the circumstances and conditions of political warfare call for a recasting of some of the older notions on organisation and electioneering.

Not the least of recent changes has been the wonderful change that has taken place in Trades Unionists' attitude to political warfare. The change is twofold. Not many years ago political discussion, or even the communications of the political Labour Movement, were taboo in the bulk of Trade Union branches, notwithstanding that their organisations were affiliated nationally to the Party. The country was covered more or less by Trades Councils with an industrial outlook, most of whom disclaimed all connection with political methods.

To-day much of this is changed; the Trades Councils themselves have in the majority of cases boldly embarked on political methods almost without question, and as an accepted thing. Trades Councils and Labour Parties function as one body in most constituencies, while thousands of Trades Union branches are definitely affiliated locally to the acknowledged Local Labour Party. The open door to Trades Union branches is practically an accomplished thing, and given more attention to delegates' reports in the branches, even greater benefit and an extension of opportunity is possible. "No politics in this branch"! is a fast dying cry, and the evil hold on Trades Union activities of stick-in-the-mud reactionaries has been largely found out.

While this has been proceeding, and of course largely connected with it, the national atmosphere has been very largely cleared. It is not four years ago since the last effort was made by the then Lib-Lab wing of Trades Unionism to pique the political Movement; and at the Derby Trades Union Congress in 1918, an attempt was made

to set up what would have been a tame Trade Union Party. This misguided effort, largely the outcome of war differences, failed, and it is to the credit of those responsible that from that day there has been a practically solid official Trades Union Movement behind the Labour Party. The number of prominent figures with any hold in Trades Union life who do not subscribe to the policy and progress of the Labour Party could almost be counted on one hand. This astonishing rally has hardly yet been appreciated, nor is its effect more than beginning to be felt. It is reflected throughout the length and breadth of Trades Unionism and though there is a long way to go, the path is infinitely easier, and the support of the masses infinitely more assured.

Nationally too, the co-operation between the elements of Trades Unionism and political Labour has grown closer and closer, till to-day we have in existence a really effective National Joint Council representing the General Council of the T.U.C. and the Executive Committee of the Labour Party, and of the Parliamentary Labour Party. This Council is the herald of still greater changes, and of a larger unity and political purpose within the whole Movement.

But atmospheric changes have not stopped even here. It is not true that political Labour was impeded purely by the Liberal sympathisers of the Trade Union Movement. There were those who derided, perhaps some who still deride, the political movement and believed that industrial action was a quicker and more effective weapon. The change here has been even quicker and more recent than any other. The failure of the unaided industrial machine has been apparent to all during the recent year, and notable figures in the Trade Union movement have quite recently given their whole-hearted support to the methods of political conquest, who before were lukewarm upon the subject, or who even in recent conferences advocated the other line. To comment upon this change while its whole effects have to be seen would be idle. I merely point it out as adding yet another powerful incentive to the rank and file of Trade Unionism to throw its maximum weight into the Labour Political Movement.



When we look for the moral of these things it is readily to be found in the new opportunities presented, for, obviously, methods of organisation are now open which could not have been adopted with uniform success a few years ago. This change in the Trades Union atmosphere will more than any other factor have its influence in distinguishing our organising and electoral methods from those of our opponents—that is, assuming we are wide awake enough to seize our chances. I would remind my readers once again that I am not here indicating what methods might be adopted; these will be found indicated from time to time in the "Labour Organiser," which, with its staff of contributors, is ever up-to-date in these matters.

Yet one other change which affects the problem of organisation and electioneering is the wonderful growth of the Labour Party itself in the constituencies. Its network of local organisation has spread with terrific rapidity from one end of the country to the other since the launching of the new constitution in 1918. No longer either does the Party fight in its few strongholds, but the battle-line is country-wide, and no seat is safe from its challenge.

When Labour fought its isolated fights in a few picked constituencies the conditions of the contest were essentially different from its battles nowadays when every candidate has neighbours in the fight, and whole countryside are roused for Labour. It was possible in the older methods for concentration to be made from surrounding constituencies, though this help led to the neglect of internal organisation, and in the long run proved no sufficient substitute for it. To-day the conditions permit of co-operation in many matters in many areas; and comradeship makes strong. The national challenge is in itself a tremendous asset; to influence public opinion is easier. The difference, in fact, is almost the difference between a parochial and a national fight and is in every way to the advantage of our forces.

(To be continued.)

(The concluding article will be published next month, to be followed by the "Psychology of Political Parties and of the Electorate.")

## LAW AND PRACTICE

[Under this heading are found brief and chatty explanations of points of commoner interest concerning the Law and Practice of Elections. Readers are invited to suggest points for notice herein, but are reminded that suggestions made may not necessarily be dealt with in the next issue.—ED.]

### SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

QUESTION.—What is the legal age which a candidate for Parliament must attain before nomination?

ANSWER.—The answer to this question is to be found in an old law enacted in 1695, when it was declared that no person shall be capable of being elected a member of Parliament who is not of the age of one and twenty years. It should be remembered that full age is completed in law on the day preceding the 21st anniversary of one's birth. There are penalties for a minor who presumes to sit in Parliament, and an election is null and void if the person has not attained the age stated at the time of the election (which in law is the day of nomination).

QUESTION.—Is canvassing for votes on polling day legal, or may literature be distributed on that day?

ANSWER.—This is a question that has been asked by more than one correspondent, and some misunderstanding obviously exists. There is nothing whatever illegal either in canvassing or in distributing literature on polling day, and it is somewhat difficult to understand what is in the minds of the questioners, and equally difficult to understand why they desire to canvass on the very day that the harvest of the canvass should be gleaned! It is, of course true, that in the case of literature of a libellous character the offence is aggravated by the last hour distribution. One correspondent enquires whether literature may be given out at the polling station, and whether it is legal for a candidate to remind the elector at the polling station as the electors enter the precincts, of the position his name occupies on the ballot paper. To this we would reply that it is not generally desirable to interfere with the free access of voters to the polling station, and if literature

is to be given out it is best not distributed in the immediate precincts of the building. It is certainly not definitely illegal for a candidate to do as suggested, though interference of this character is undesirable and certainly not over-dignified. Let others do this work if it is to be done, though again, anything in the nature of picketing the polling stations is to be deprecated.

**QUESTION.**—What is the limit allowed to be paid for a Committee Room?

**ANSWER.**—There is no limit laid down by law, and the matter is governed by the amount that can conveniently be spent within the maximum allowed for the whole election. While there is no limit it is obvious that an excessive amount is open to suspicion as covering up some other expenditure, or even having a graver element in it. Money paid for the use of committee rooms must be purely for the hire, and incidental expenses, and the fact that the receipt was given in respect of hire only would not wipe out any offence, assuming the money was paid for some other ulterior purpose.

**QUESTION.**—Can a room used as a Cafe in Summer but not in Winter be used for a committee room during the period of time it is not being used as a Cafe?

**ANSWER.**—This is a case of considerable difficulty, and depends upon the interpretation given of the prohibition of any premises whereon refreshments of any kind are ordinarily sold for consumption on the premises. Some enlightenment on this question may be gained by a perusal of our reply on a somewhat kindred question on the use of Char-a-bancs used only for hire during a portion of the year ("Labour Organiser," February, 1922, page 3). Taking the facts as stated, we should deprecate the use of these rooms immediately after they had ceased to be used for Cafe purposes. There would seem to be no great risk in using them when definitely closed after the summer season, assuming, of course, that such rooms had undergone a certain amount of dismantling, and that they were not periodically opened during the winter for social purposes where refreshments were provided.

## LOCAL NEWSPAPER MEMS.

A series of special localised editions of the "North Staffordshire Labour News" were put out during the recent election, and probably no better instance could be found of the power of a well-directed Labour press than in the results secured at the polls. In some large wards every Labour candidate was returned, and the results altogether were most encouraging. The special editions also had a very remunerative advertisement income.

We note that the West Cumberland "Labour Gazette" is not now one of the Labour News series, and that it has taken to entirely local printing, slightly increasing in size at the same time. The paper is most creditably edited, and its interest is not too exclusively Labour. There is a fair interspersing of general news and matter, and the "Labour Gazette" makes an appeal to every home. The editor is Mr. T. Gavan-Duffy. Mr. James Devlin, C.C., the local organising secretary and agent, acts as the advertisement and circulation manager—and probably in half a dozen other capacities besides. We shall watch this paper's progress with interest.

The "Sheffield Forward," No. 12, of which is to hand, is a four-page crown folio monthly sheet, and is the organ of the Sheffield Federated Trades and Labour Council. We are sorry that the old "Forward" is now published monthly, and trust that after the prevailing depression, weekly publication will again be possible.

The "York Forward" is another of the Labour News series which is run in co-operation by the York and District Trades and Labour Councils, the York Labour Party, and the York Co-operative Society. There is a commendable attempt to import variety into its columns. The price is one penny monthly.

We note that the "Bermondsey Labour News" reached its twenty-fifth issue in March, and now enters on its third year. Up to March not less than 210,000 copies have been circulated, and the remarkable achievement of this paper is to be seen in the result of the recent elections in Bermondsey.



Smashing victories were secured in the County Council Elections, while in the recent Boards of Guardians Elections, despite the prevailing tendency, there was a net gain of six seats. The editor is the local agent, Coun. A. J. Bamford.

The "Park and Heeley Gazette" is another of the Labour News series run locally by the Park and Heeley Divisional Labour Party, Sheffield. The local agent, Coun. E. G. Rowlinson, is the editor. It is a journal with a vigorous kick and apparently is taking the task of fighting very seriously. There is no attempt here of a magazine paper. All the guns are trained on the enemy for a frontal attack.

We note that the "Bath Pioneer," the weekly organ of the Bath Labour Party, and one of the Labour News series, has now increased in size to six pages. There is an excellent serial and quite a number of attractive and home-appealing features, while the advertisement income appears to be also creeping up. This is one of the best and most attractive weekly papers, and we trust the Bath Labour Party will take good care that it is kept afloat.

The influence of the "Pioneer," the old-established Leicester Labour newspaper, undoubtedly had a great deal to do with the sparkling victory recently secured in the East Division Parliamentary By-Election. As might be expected, the "Pioneer" was very cock-a-hoop over the recent victory, but permitted its contributor "Privado" to make a very ungenerous reference by innuendo to the efforts of others who assisted in the contest. Even "Privado" cannot claim that "Alone I did it"!

No. 1 of the "Bury Pioneer," published in April, by the Bury Labour Press Committee, is one of the Labour News series whose first issue bears every evidence of future interest and intention to live long. We would join our well-wishes with those of others published in its columns under the heading of "Heralds of Hope," and trust that the "Bury Pioneer" will itself be a herald of a prosperous weekly later on.

Many will regret that the "Woolwich Pioneer," always an influential and interesting weekly, has now ceased publication. We trust that a new Phoenix will soon arise, to aid in the coming task of regaining this Labour citadel for its people.

Since penning the above we have received a copy of the No. 1 of "The Pioneer"—a new monthly—which for the time will take the place of its weekly predecessor. We must congratulate our Woolwich friends on this prompt rally and the Pioneer Press on a really well-printed and attractive paper. Councillor W. Barefoot is the editor, and we note several features continued that sustain the traditions of the first paper. In its columns George Lansbury remarks, "The Pioneer is Dead—Long Live the Pioneer," an apt description of what was and is. The new "Pioneer" has a guaranteed gratis circulation of 15,000 copies per month, a balance being sold at one penny. It is able, therefore, to command a reasonable rate for its advertisements, and we believe the first issue has been a financial success. Certainly a respectable advertisement income appears to have been solved. We gather that a professional advertisement canvasser is employed, and the size (and, presumably, future?) of the paper will depend largely on the revenue thus obtained.

## GET OUT OF THE RUT

In calling up your helpers, appealing to local trade unions, and for the Election address

### Use Facsimile Letters.

There is as much difference between Facsimile Letters and Stencil Copies as there is between the latter and printed leaflets. They are

### Real Hand-Typed Personal Letters

and command attention from all. The sub-conscious bias against a printed letter is avoided, you reach the ear in a convincing "chatty" manner.

### You become REAL to the Electors

and not merely a distributor of printed bills. It's unusual, of course, but the unusual gets a lot of free publicity.

*Ernest E. Hunter says: "I have found Peacock Facsimile Letters an invaluable aid to this Dept. on many occasions."*

Get specimens and prices before the Election, in fact, now is the time to write to the Peacock Publicity Service, 5 York Buildings, Adelphi, London, W.C.2.

**GARDEN FURNITURE** (Special Importation), Suitable for Camps, Clubs, Tea Gardens, and Home use. Strong Chairs, Tables, Deck Armchairs and Garden Seats. Made in hard Beechwood, screwed, and all joints rivetted. All fold into small space. Write **PEACOCK SERVICE** (above).

## NEW AGENCY APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have not previously been announced in the "Labour Organiser." In one or two cases the appointments were made some time ago, but endorsement has only just been given. One or two other cases have been waiting publication in our columns, this feature having been suspended during our special Election Editions.

**SOUTH-EASTERN ESSEX**:—J. Lavin, 24, Hathaway Road, Grays, Essex.

**MANCHESTER, ARDWICK**:—T. M. Larrad, 15, East Avenue, Burnage Garden Village, Levenshulme, Manchester.

**CAMBERWELL, PECKHAM**:—H. Curtis, 81, Jewel Road, E. 17.

**ISLINGTON, SOUTH**:—H. J. Lincoln, 295, Upper Street, N. 1.

**FINCHLEY**:—C. R. Vincent.

**BRIGG DIVISION (Woman Organiser)**—Mrs. A. Butler, 132, Sheffield Street, Scunthorpe, Lincs.

**HUDDERSFIELD**:—W. Whiteley, 12, Church Avenue, Crosland Moor, Huddersfield.

**SKIPTON**:—H. Atkinson, Bleach House, Benthams, Yorks.

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES**:—A. J. Thatcher, Second Floor, Cinema Buildings, High Street, Stockton-on-Tees.

**GRAVESEND**:—W. Pickles, 14, Overcliffe, Gravesend.

**BILSTON**:—G. H. Howgate, 7E, Tipton St., Sedgley, nr. Dudley.

**ELLAND**:—J. Lawson, 13, Crown Street, Brighouse, Yorks.

**LADYWOOD**:—E. Bevan, 1, Enderley Buildings, Bellefield Rd., B'gham.

Of the above announcements it will be noted that Mr. Thatcher has transferred from Gloucester, and that Mr. Howgate has transferred from the Kidderminster Division.

Mr. R. Bury, the secretary of the Nottingham Labour Party, writes:—May I congratulate you on an excellent April (Election) Number? Please send a dozen on; I know I shall sell them, and perhaps more later—I am going to "forcibly persuade" all the Ward Secretaries to buy one, so shall need a dozen at least. The election article alone makes it beyond the price—said price too modest—so one dozen April number, please.

## GETTING THE BEST OUT OF THE DUPLICATOR

### SOME USEFUL HINTS.

In response to an invitation, Messrs. Andrews and Co., of 11, Red Lion Square, W.C.1, very kindly send the following notes on duplicating, etc.:—

As a number of your readers have purchased our duplicators or are, probably, users of similar machines, we have pleasure in responding to your invitation to offer a few hints on duplicating by the stencil process.

Stencils and ink bearing the maker's name only should be used. Cheap materials do not repay the time and labour used in their preparation which, after all, is the most costly part of the work. Branded stencils are selected, and the ink is free from grit and other impurities.

*Typewritten originals.*—Before typing brush out the types with a stiff brush moistened with petrol or other spirit. See that the ribbon is out of the way. Do not type rapidly, so that each type has an opportunity of properly perforating the wax. Should an error be made leave it for correction until the typing is completed. When the stencil is finished rub the finger tips over the protecting tissue to replace any characters which may have been knocked out. Turn back the tissue and brush over with "Obliterator" any errors and allow to dry. Replace the tissue and retype the correction, striking each character twice. This fluid is also useful for painting out on the stencil any cracks or spots which may appear during the printing of the copies. Should the typewriter be worn or the results imperfect, the use of a silk sheet to aid perforation will improve the copies. This is placed directly beneath the wax sheet before the stencil is put into the typewriter and is removed when the typing is completed. It can be used many times, and when greasy, should be wiped with petrol or other spirit. Developing fluid is also helpful for rendering clearer any characters which appear indistinct when duplicating.

*Abundantype Stencils.*—This is not a wax stencil and needs more care in preparation. It does not give the nice sharp effects of the wax stencil but it is very useful when many thousands of

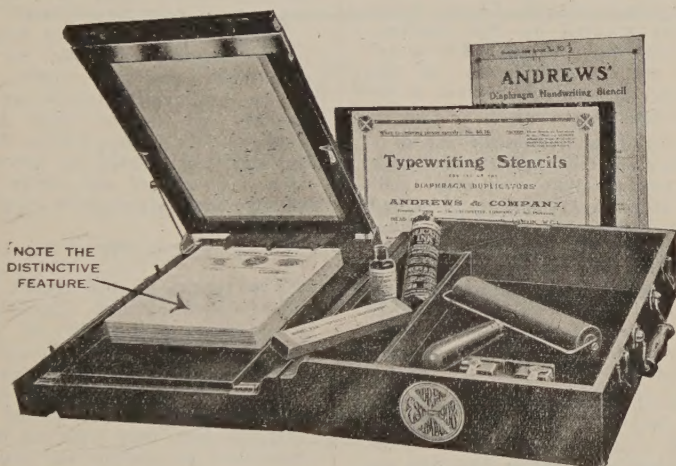


# ANDREWS' DIAPHRAGM DUPLICATORS

Reproduce, in facsimile handwriting or typewriting, your notices at a very reasonable cost. It has all the efficiency of more expensive duplicators. Copies are uniform throughout and the number is unlimited. Willingly sent CARRIAGE AND PACKING FREE ON APPROVAL.

**BRITISH made under British CONTROL**

**Testimonials from several Labour Party Agents**



**MODEL NO. 2—£6 10s.,** complete with outfit for first 24 originals.

The distinctive feature of this model is the printing bed which accommodates a pile of paper thus saving the time and labour involved in placing sheets singly thereon. It gives a rate of output of copies almost equal to that of expensive rotary duplicators.

**MODEL No. 1—£5 10s.,** complete with outfit. This has the advantages of No. 2 Model, but does not accommodate a pile of paper on its bed.

**If You Use**

**GESTETNER'S ROTARY DUPLICATOR**, or any other make of Duplicator, send for Price List of our Accessories which will save you money. Only the very best and most reliable materials supplied

**SPECIAL TERMS TO LABOUR PARTY AGENTS**

## ANDREWS & COMPANY

TELEPHONE:

**LONDON (Head Office): 11 Red Lion Square, W.C.1. Holborn 2287**  
and at Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol & Cardiff

copies are wanted or it is desired to store the original for future use.

*Handwriting originals* are generally prepared by one of the three following methods :—

The most common is by means of the wheel pen, darkened zinc plate and handwriting stencil. The latter is of a quite different nature from the type stencil. The zinc plate is placed directly beneath the handwriting stencil, and the wheel pen is used just as an ordinary pen, but with firm pressure on up and down strokes alike. Avoid hurried writing. Clean, sharp effects are secured by this method. Wheel pens mounted on heavy metal handles, are not satisfactory as the little wheel is invariably injured if the pen is dropped.

The second method is the use of a typewriting stencil in conjunction with a silk writing plate and steel ball pointed stylus. The plate is placed immediately beneath the wax sheet and the writing done directly on the wax. This method is adopted for adding signatures to typed stencils and for ruling lines thereon. The effect is good but not sufficiently sharp when a closely-written full-page reproduction is wanted.

The third method is the handwriting stencil used in conjunction with an engraved steel file and steel stylus. This method is tedious as these files are so expensive to engrave that they are only made in narrow widths, and the stencil has to be constantly moved during the preparation.

*Drawings.*—To trace designs a celluloid tracing sheet is employed with an unruled handwriting stencil. The celluloid is placed on the drawing and the stencil laid on top. The whole is fastened at the corners with drawing pins. The design, which can be seen through the celluloid is traced on to the stencil by means of wheel pens. These are made on straight stems for ruling, on penshapes for forming curves, writing and printing characters, and without handles for use in compasses. The wheels are of differing grades—fine, medium, broad and dotting, the grades denoting their use. Original drawings are produced by the aid of plain handwriting stencils, the darkened zinc writing plate and the various wheel pens. The medium grade of wheel fills most requirements.

*Music.*—A special music pen and ruler is made for drawing the staves. The notes and other characters are filled in by means of a wheel pen. Handwriting stencil is used.

Whatever make of duplicator is employed, the silk diaphragm should be washed occasionally with petrol to free it from wax, and grit. Ink, if of good quality, should be allowed to remain upon composition rollers as a preservative. Stencils keep best in a temperature of 60 degrees, and if any quantity is stocked the boxes are best stored on their edges. Ink should be kept in a fairly warm place.

These hints, which we hope may prove helpful, are by no means exhaustive, and we would like to advise your readers that we are at their service, no matter what type of duplicator they use. Advice sought on any difficulty should be accompanied with a sample of the copies secured and the kind of machine employed.

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The results of the recent London Boards of Guardians Elections were seized upon with avidity by the anti-Labour Press to spread the notion that Labour had received a staggering setback. This is simply not true, for while the total results resulted in a regrettable loss, they were not nearly so disastrous as stated, and considering the superhuman efforts put out by the other side, aided by the torrent of falsehoods from its Press, the wonder is that Labour kept its own so well. We gather from a circular sent out by Mr. Herbert Morrison that there was a net loss of 18 seats. The seats won in 1919 numbered 143; those won in 1922 numbered 125. Incidentally, as a reply to the notions spread by the press gang, it is interesting to note that the present is the third successive half-year in which the average net rate reductions of the Labour Boroughs has been greater than that of the Municipal "Reform" Boroughs.

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Our readers are requested to note that the office of Mr. T. C. Morris, the National District Organiser of the Wales and Monmouth area of the Labour Party, is now 38, Charles Street, Cardiff, to which address all communications should be sent.



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## OUR WOMAN'S PAGE

"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER."

After having read the last two special Election editions of the "Labour Organiser," agents and secretaries must be feeling full of wisdom and understanding, and longing to put many of the excellent ideas and suggestions into practice. They will be thinking out their plans, especially their plan of canvassing, and especially the canvassing of the woman voter.

There may be some among our agents and secretaries who can't get much beyond the "thinking out" of this part of their campaign, and it may be that these good officials are finding it almost impossible to get members who will enroll themselves for the work of canvassing, either among men or women.

So that there is still another sort of preparation for the General Election which can always be going on and that is preparing the "minds" of our own members. One finds that the principal reason given by women against canvassing is that they are afraid of not being able to answer questions or explain the Party's programme. Women who have attended regular meetings of women's sections declare their inability to explain in simple language the Labour Party's policy on the different items of current political interest.

This may be because many sections book women speakers on subjects of interest to women such as Child Welfare, etc., but have never had a special series of speakers who can deal with the Labour Party's programme, and explain each item, and give reasons *why* we stand for Nationalisation, etc. Also, even where the older members, both men and women, may feel well informed in all points, there are the new members coming in, and for their benefit special meetings should be arranged for explaining "Our Programme," and the principal items in it.

May I suggest that secretaries arrange joint meetings with the Women's Sections, with the special object of training the *mind* for the General Election. Special questions should be written out beforehand, of the type generally met with when canvassing. These should be answered

and discussed by the speaker, with helpful hints and illustrations.

We assume that men and women who become members know all about the Party's programme, with the result that the bulk of membership is never in harness, and all the work is done by the few, keen, willing workers, always the same few. How many of the others are longing to be able to express themselves in some practical way? They look wistfully on, modestly refusing to take any work of responsibility, simply because they have never had a chance of getting hold (in a simple, understanding way) of the ideas behind the enthusiastic band of workers; they are new converts and feel afraid. Let us see that they have a chance anyhow, especially the women, of being trained for the work of canvassing and speaking.

We can't repeat our slogans too often; the more we know of Labour's programme, the more keen and enthusiastic we become, **ESPECIALLY WE WOMEN.**

## NEW POSTMASTER'S REGULATIONS

New regulations have just been issued under the Representation of the People Act by the Postmaster-General. In several particulars these differ from the regulations formerly in force. Among the alterations it is to be noted that the words "Election communication" must be printed *at the top* of the address side of the envelope, and that a candidate making a deposit and not going to nomination may have the balance of his deposit returned after charging postage rates on communications already sent. The regulations relating to absent voters have been considerably revised. The limit of weight is now the same as for other free postal communications, and the special provision for return of postal packets formerly in force has been re-enacted. The following are the regulations minus the merely formal declaration in the Schedule:—

1. A candidate wishing to exercise the right of free postage conferred by Section 33 of the Representation of the People Act, 1918, should give notice personally or by his agent not later than the day before posting to the Head Postmaster of the town in which it is desired to post the communications relating to the election. In



London, notice should be given to the Postmaster at the Head District Office. It will not be necessary that all communications for all electors in a constituency shall be posted at one and the same Office in that constituency.

2. If a candidate wishes to exercise the right before he is duly nominated, he will be required to deposit the sum of £50 with the Head Postmaster as security for the payment of postage in case he does not eventually become nominated. If the candidate is not nominated the balance of the deposit (if any), after deduction of the amount due for postage on the communications posted, will be returned to him.

3. Communications must not exceed 2 oz. in weight, nor 9 in. in length by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. in width. The words "Election communication" must be printed, stamped or legibly written at the top of the address side.

4. Communications must be handed in between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at such Head or Branch Post Office as may be designated by the Head Postmaster for the purpose. They must be tied in bundles of 120 and faced the same way, and as far as possible should be sorted according to streets.

5. The communications must be accompanied on each occasion of posting by a statement in duplicate in the form set forth in the schedule to these Regulations. The Officer to whom the communications are tendered will stamp each copy of the statement with the Post Office date-stamp, and return one copy to the person presenting the communications. Communications posted by a candidate before nomination will be accepted only on condition that such statement is to be deemed to be conclusive evidence of the number of communications posted by him, in case he does not eventually become nominated.

6. Any envelope for a reply enclosed in a communication should be marked "postage to be prepaid."

#### SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR ABSENT VOTERS.

7. In order to secure a reasonable prospect of delivery before the receipt of the ballot papers communications addressed to absent voters serving afloat should be posted as early as possible.

8. In the case of a naval voter at

a Home Establishment or on a ship in Home Waters the address should include the name, rank or rating, and number (if any) of the voter, and the full postal address of the establishment, or the name and postal address of the ship. If the location of the ship is not known the packet should be addressed "c/o G.P.O." In the case of a military or Air Force voter serving in the United Kingdom, the address should include (1) the army or official number (if any), (2) rank, (3) name, (4) Squadron or Company (if any), (5) Battalion, Battery, Regiment or other unit, and (6) the full postal address of the station.

9. The communications should be tied in separate bundles for (a) naval voters addressed "c/o G.P.O.," and (b) absent voters at any other address in the United Kingdom. When there are as many as 10 or 12 communications for one ship or naval establishment they should be tied together.

10. Communications addressed to an absent voter's home address and redirected thence will be forwarded without charge if the new address is sufficient and if the packet is reposted not later than the day after delivery in accordance with the ordinary regulations.

11. Any communication posted in accordance with these regulations will be treated as undelivered if addressed to an absent voter at an address outside the United Kingdom, or on a ship which, according to the information furnished to the Postmaster-General by the Admiralty, is on a foreign station.

*The Postmaster-General will make the best arrangements possible in respect of all communications to an Absent Voter, but he cannot guarantee that they will be delivered before the time at which the voter has to fill up and post his ballot paper.*

#### GENERAL.

12. (a) Any communications which cannot be delivered, for want of a sufficient address or for any other reason, will be forwarded to the Head Post Office of the district in which they were posted and held there for three days, and will be handed over at that Office to the sender or his accredited Agent if called for, on payment of a special search fee of 3d. at the time of each application, provided that they bear in the left-hand half

of the address side the following words:—

“If undelivered, to be returned at once (under special authority of the Postmaster-General) to the Head Office of the district of posting, and to be kept there for three days and handed on demand to the accredited agent of Mr.....”

Such communications not applied for within three days will be destroyed.

(b) Undelivered communications which do not bear the superscription mentioned above will be subject to the ordinary rules relating to undelivered packets sent at the minimum Printed Paper rate: that is to say, if they bear on the outside a request for return with the sender's name and address they will be returned to him on payment of postage: otherwise they will be destroyed.

By command of the  
Postmaster-General.

April, 1922.

Here follows Schedule.

### ELECTION COMMITTEE ROOMS

For the definition of a committee room one has to look at certain negative expressions in Acts of Parliament, for the term has never been positively defined. The term committee room has been held to be wide enough to include a suite of rooms or a whole building. Any room, place, or building, habitually used for the business of an election is liable to classification as a committee room. An exception, however, is made in the case of a house or room occupied by a candidate as a dwelling or occupied by reason only of the candidate transacting business therein with his agents. It is also laid down that a room or building shall not be deemed to be a committee room by reason only of the candidate or any agent of the candidate addressing therein election workers, committee-men, or others.

Certain places are prohibited as committee rooms, viz., licensed premises, other than those of a permanent political club or premises where refreshments (either food or drink) are sold for consumption on the premises, or the premises of public elementary schools. Any part of the above premises ordinarily let as offices or for public meetings may be used providing

such has a separate entrance and no direct communication with any part in which drink or refreshment is sold or supplied. It has never seemed quite clear whether the locking of any door would sufficiently bar off access to the places where food or drink is sold.

The number of committee rooms which may be hired for payment is limited as follows:—In a Borough, one committee room for the first 500 electors, and an additional room for every further 500, or part of 500. A Division of a Borough is treated as a separate Borough. In a County Division there may be hired for payment one central committee room, and one committee room for each polling district, and where the number of electors in a polling district exceeds 500 a further committee room may be hired for every complete 500 electors, over and above the first 500. There is no limit to the number of committee rooms that may be used, provided they are lent gratuitously.

The hiring of a central committee room is one of the first businesses of an election, and often presents considerable difficulty. The address of same must be notified to the returning officer. In selecting a central room, particularly in a Borough, consideration has to be given to the advertising effect that may be obtained. The hum and bustle of a central committee room situated on a main road is frequently worth many votes to the candidate so blest, and a certain degree of convenience in the internal arrangements must sometimes be sacrificed for the advertising effect obtained. Circumstances in a County Division are somewhat different. In some few County Divisions there is practically little to be gained by the prominence of the central committee room, while in another part of the Division the sub-committee rooms instead will require prominence. The only general rule to be laid down is to secure advertising effect in every possible place, whether with the central committee room or sub-committee rooms.

In most places the plan of campaign involves the establishment of a number of committee rooms throughout the Division serving the purpose of a rallying ground for the workers, offices for the local officers in charge, and places where much of the work is conducted on a localised plan. Other



committee rooms are opened to serve for the various polling stations later in the fray, some of them not being opened till polling day itself. It frequently arises that an admirably situated local centre room is not the best place for service on polling day, and in such cases it is better to open a further one-day committee room on the day of the poll than to forego the advertisement and convenience of a well-situated office, by choosing one in a less favoured site to serve the dual purpose.

It cannot be too strongly impressed that every committee room should be a shouting advertisement for our cause and candidate. Good displays and well-ordered windows will attract workers and interest the man in the street. It will help to rouse enthusiasm and excite the apathetic elector. Window displays and posters should be frequently changed and a splash of colour is essential. The window should be conspicuous from every angle and should not fail to hit every passer-by "in the eye."

There is one virtue that will not take even second place to advertisements. That is cleanliness. Filthy committee rooms and dirty windows are an abhorrence that should not be tolerated for a single instant. There is no reason why at an election workers should want to carry back street dirtiness and factory surroundings to the point of living in them during the election. We shall never rouse the woman electorate by displaying a partiality for grubby and grimy surroundings. The first election expense might well be soap, bucket, scrubber, and broom, plus a window leather, and these articles should be kept busy. It will be imperative on the election agent to impress the same moral on those in charge of the local committee rooms, and he must deal firmly but gently with the benighted individuals who allege they are too busy to attend to these things. Make it a part of the campaign that the committee rooms shall be as bright and clean as the homes we advocate, and it will help the latter policy to be believed.

The elementary equipment of the central committee room is well understood. The internal arrangements should as far as possible provide for the privacy of the election agent and candidate and other principal officers.

Provision should also be made for enquirers to be met before they penetrate into the vital part of the interior. It is essential that a complete register should always be on hand to answer register enquiries. Incidentally it is also a good plan to supply certain of the branch committee rooms with complete registers and, of course, all committee rooms with the section of the register for their area. All committee rooms should be in possession of a complete list of other rooms with telephone numbers, if procurable, and officers in charge. A marking on the list should indicate those rooms where complete registers are kept.

The question of communication between committee rooms is vital to mobility of movement and the transmission of motion throughout the Division. In Boroughs the difficulty is sometimes very minor, but in any case a regular day-to-day line of communication should be set up as the minimum, and the hour of communication should be definite and permanent.

In County constituencies communication is an altogether different matter. The extent, however, to which this difficulty is got over is a barometer of successful organisation. Not even the remotest committee room should be more than two days without personal communication, apart from the daily post or possible telephonic communication. The thing to be aimed at is a daily round of at least a certain number of committee rooms, and in 75 per cent. of cases this is quite practicable and is of wonderful assistance in the contest.

The purposes of communication are : (1) For reports; (2) for instruction and communications; (3) for supplies of printing, etc.; (4) for interchange of enquiries, removals, register markings, etc. A daily round secures the rapid distribution of fresh literature, and one obtains from it a wider front when dealing a blow at the enemy. If the distribution is effective throughout the Division the blow has gone all along the line.

The interior of the central committee room should be so arranged that literature may be easily counted, stacked, handled and packed, and every effort should be made to avoid confusion. Literature is frequently given out by guess-work. This need not be if the unit system is adopted. Under this

system every committee room is allotted so many units according to the electorate it controls. Thus a committee room of 500 electors may be counted as one unit, whereas a committee room of 2,500 electors would rank as five units. When literature comes in, say in five or ten thousand lots, the clerk takes twenty-five, fifty, or one hundred, as the case may be, as the unit, and each committee room receives multiples of that unit according to the number of units it is entitled to. There is no confusion, each room gets precisely the proportion of handbills or leaflets that it is entitled to, while if electioneering is more strenuous in one area than another the matter is adjusted by allotting to it a large number of units.

The importance of women officers in the committee rooms should not be overlooked. Too often committee rooms bear just that same atmosphere of officialdom which the offices of rate collectors, education offices, County Courts, and similar places do. Working women have a painful experience of these places, and a wholesome hatred of them. They will not cultivate the habit of going to election committee rooms where this atmosphere prevails. There must be some women and also a greater homeliness about the rooms, with less of that off-handedness which is so easily engendered by pressure of work. Much the same remarks apply to local committee rooms. A stuffy room, a gentleman in his shirt sleeves, and a room full of smoke, are not precisely the attractions that will bring the woman voter in on polling day to give her number, or to volunteer help. There should be a woman in the room, and then the arduous labours of the gentleman may not necessitate his shirt sleeves.

Whenever the writing is done in the central room care should be taken to place the writers in a place where they are as free from interruption as possible. Voluntary writers who step in for half-an-hour's work are not of very real value and ought not to be encouraged. The aim should be to keep the writers on long spells.

It goes without saying that access to committee rooms should always be easy. Open doors should be the rule, and the hiring of a few screens will sometimes make this practicable where

draughts would otherwise prevent it. The use of screens is also very helpful should the central committee room not consist of divided rooms, and when some large hall has had to be rented. Those responsible should not fail to secure that all committee rooms are well lighted and heated. Lavatory arrangements ought not to be overlooked. Where the comfort and convenience of workers is considered greater efficiency is always obtainable, but in Labour circles it ought not to be necessary to point this moral.

The telephone is an undoubted asset in every election to the party using same. Particularly is this the case in county constituencies, where both time and money are to be saved by telephonic messages. The mobility and swiftness of movement of an election machine is vastly increased where the telephone is effectively used, and the ability of the election agent to keep his ear to every point of the constituency tells enormously in his favour. Parties who are not yet possessed of the telephone in their central rooms ought immediately to consider the installation of same, for even at the present high cost the service justifies this in the course of the election. Where this course is impossible owing to the absence of present central premises, it may yet be practicable to secure a temporary installation during the election, and where even this is impossible some arrangement is sometimes possible with a neighbouring and favourably-disposed user. In the latter instance, obviously an additional messenger is necessary, which charge might go some distance toward paying for the temporary installation. Hard, indeed, is the case of the agent in a county constituency who has no telephone facilities, other than cumbersome public call boxes, with their delays, uncertainties, and publicity. Telephone arrangements are, of course, necessary not only at the centre but in the districts, and here generally it is found the village postmistresses are more accommodating with public calls. It, of course, is not suggested that a special telephone installation should be put in other than at the central rooms, though in the case of certain two or three town constituencies even a second or third installation may be worth the cost.





The above is a reproduction, exactly half-size, of a most artistic and effective device by the Reading Labour Party to stimulate its workers. The original was done in two colours.

### LABOUR AGENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

Following upon a Ballot of members the Annual Conference of the Association will this year take place other than at the same time as the Party Conference at Edinburgh. Arrangements have been made for the holding of the Conference on Friday and Saturday, June 16th and 17th, in the Co-operative Hall, Derby. The delegates will be welcomed by their brother agent, the Labour Mayor of Derby, Coun. W. R. Raynes.

Mr. J. J. Pendry is relinquishing his agency at Bath. Mr. J. W. Walton has relinquished the agency at Kingswinford.

The new chairman of the London District, over which Miss Mabel Crout so ably presided during the past year, is our brother agent, Mr. H. G. Coleman, the Labour Mayor of Islington. We are glad that Mr. R. T. Windle, the able district organiser for London, still retains the secretaryship.

We regret that sickness has been largely the reason that Mr. E. J. Hookway, of Haywood and Ratcliffe, has not sought re-election as secretary to the important Lancashire and Cheshire district of the Association. The new secretary is Mr. W. A. Spofforth, of 1, Todd Street, Manchester, whom we heartily wish success.

Mr. J. H. Standring, the national district organiser for the North-Western district, is conducting a series of lectures on electoral matters at the Agents' Association meetings, which are held monthly in that area.

Our readers will regret to hear that Coun. J. Whittaker, of Wolverhampton, has been indisposed for some time, and will wish him a speedy recovery. The duties of agent have, in the meantime, been carried on by Mr. Dan Davies, late agent at Shrewsbury and Stourbridge.

West Midland agents will be interested to know that Mr. J. Lavin, formerly of Burslem, has now been appointed agent in South-East Essex.

## CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES

### WHAT TO AVOID.

Several volumes might be filled with treatises on the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Acts. It is not the intention here to give other than a very brief summary of these matters, for those responsible for an election who honestly desire to conduct the election cleanly will find that by observing the spirit of fair play, added to a knowledge of certain definite prohibitions, there is by no means a great possibility of going wrong. Many aspects of the Corrupt Practices Acts have been dealt with from time to time in the "Labour Organiser," and no really useful purpose is served by elaborating certain points with the object of assisting those who desire to sail as near the wind as possible. In the interests of fair elections and for the credit of the Party's good name, everyone responsible for a Labour candidature should endeavour to observe, not only the letter, but the spirit of the law.

A good deal might be added to the following summary to show the difference in effect of Corrupt and Illegal Practices or the difference between Illegal Payments, Employment, Hiring, etc., for these offences carry with them varying penalties and not all of them disqualify a candidate after election. For the same reason, however, as that given above we do not feel it necessary in this article to elaborate these points. All of them may be studied at leisure in legal text books, but the knowledge that a thing is wrong should ordinarily be sufficient without desiring to know precisely whether this or that offence is quite so serious as some other that might have been committed. The golden rule is—Don't.

### CORRUPT PRACTICES.

**BRIBERY.** Promising, giving, or lending money or goods for the purpose of securing votes, whether before, during, or after an election, is illegal.

The following acts are bribery if there is proof that they are done to influence the vote or to cause a person to refrain from voting:—

- (a) Promise or gift of money; (b) Loans of money are equivalent to gifts; (c) Promise or gift of employment; (d) Payment of travelling expenses or loss of time; (e) Gifts to charity. But

note, there must be proof of intention to influence the vote of a person or persons.

**TREATING.**—This is very similar to bribery, but no contract with an individual need be proved.

The following comes under the head of treating if done with the intention of influencing votes:—

- (a) Promise of rewards or entertainment; (b) Promise or gifts of meat or drink; (c) Treating of non-electors to induce them to influence electors, or of women non-electors to influence sweethearts; (d) Promise or giving of tea parties.

**PERSONATION.**—A person is guilty of personation who applies for a ballot paper of some other person whether that person be living or dead, or of some fictitious person, or who, having voted, applies at the same election for a ballot paper in his own name. Aiding, abetting, counselling, or procuring the commission of personation is an offence equal to the offence of personation itself.

**UNDUE INFLUENCE.**—(a) The influence of justices, police, military, etc., to dissuade or to influence voters is illegal.

(b) The use of threats of force or violence is illegal; e.g., using mobs to beat or molest people on the day of election.

(c) The use of threats to inflict temporal damage is illegal; e.g., customers injuring tradesmen, or landlords injuring tenants to influence their votes. There would, however, have to be very definite evidence to win a case of this kind in Court.

(d) The use of threats to inflict spiritual injury is illegal; i.e., prosecutions have occasionally been preferred against priests. A priest must not appeal to fear, terror, or superstition or threaten those he addresses with punishment hereafter, to influence their votes.

**FALSE DECLARATION OF ELECTION EXPENSES.**—Any candidate or election agent knowingly making a false declaration respecting election expenses is guilty of a corrupt practice.

**EXPENSES OF MEETINGS, ETC., INCURRED WITHOUT AUTHORITY.**—If any person other than the election agent of a candidate incurs any expenses on account of holding public meetings or issuing advertisements, circulars, or publications for the purpose of promot-



ing or procuring the election of any candidate at a Parliamentary election, without the written authority of such election agent, he is guilty of a corrupt practice.

### ILLEGAL PRACTICES.

**FORBIDDEN PAYMENTS.**—Any payment, or contract for payment, knowingly made in contravention of the Act, or the receiving of any payment, or being party to any contract, with the like knowledge, on account of—

(a) The conveyance of electors to or from the poll, whether for the hiring of horses or carriages, or for railway fares, or otherwise.

(b) The use of any house, land, building, or premises for the exhibition of any address, bill, or notice, or on account of the exhibition of any address, bill, or notice, the recipient or party to the contract, being an elector, and not an advertising agent receiving such payment or making such contract in the ordinary course of his business.

(c) Any committee room in excess of the number allowed by the Act.

**PAYMENT OF ELECTION EXPENSES.**—Any payment, advance, or deposit, on account of or for expenses incurred in respect of the conduct or management of the election (not being security to, or payments by, a returning officer, and not being petty expenses legally incurred by, and not repaid to, the person paying) made by a candidate, or any agent on his behalf, or any other person, at any time, whether before, during, or after the election, otherwise than through the election agent.

**FALSE STATEMENT.** — Making or publishing before or during an election for the purpose of affecting the return of any candidate at such election any false statement of facts in relation to the personal character or conduct of such candidate.

**DISORDER AT PUBLIC MEETINGS.** — Acting or inciting others to act, in a disorderly manner at a lawful public meeting for the purpose of preventing the transaction of the business for which the meeting was called together where such meeting is a political meeting held in a constituency between the date of the issue of the writ and of the return of the writ.

**SUNDRY ILLEGAL PRACTICES.** — (a) Voting at a General Election for more constituencies than the voter is entitled to vote under the above Act, or asking for a ballot paper for the purpose of so voting, provided that the fact that any person has asked for a ballot paper in circumstances which entitle him only to mark a tendered ballot paper in pursuance of B.A. r.27 shall not, if he does not exercise that right, prevent his voting or asking for a ballot paper in another constituency.

(b) In the case of a person for the time being entitled to vote by proxy in a constituency under the Act, himself voting or attempting to vote at any Parliamentary election in that constituency otherwise than by means of the proxy paper, while the proxy paper is in force.

(c) Voting or attempting to vote as proxy on behalf of more than two absent voters at an election in any constituency unless that person is voting as the husband or wife, or the parent, brother or sister of the absent voter.

(d) Voting or attempting to vote at any election under the authority of a proxy paper when the proxy knows or has reasonable ground for supposing that the proxy paper has been cancelled, or that the elector to whom or on whose behalf the proxy paper has been issued is dead or no longer entitled to vote at that election.

The following are illegal practices when committed by the candidate, election agent, or sub-agent:

Knowingly paying for or incurring any election expense in excess of the maximum amount allowed.

Voting when prohibited by statute, or knowingly inducing or procuring any person to vote who is so prohibited from voting.

Knowingly publishing a false statement of the withdrawal of a candidate for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of another candidate.

Printing, publishing, or posting, or causing to be printed, published, or posted, any bill, placard, or poster, having reference to an election which does not bear upon its face the name and address of the printer and publisher.

Being personally guilty of an offence of illegal payment, employment, or hiring.

Failing, without authorised excuse, to comply with the provisions of the Act as to the return and declarations respecting election expenses.

Making or publishing a false statement of fact in relation to the personal character or conduct of a candidate, being the sixth offence mentioned under the first head.

The following are illegal practices when committed by the election agent :

(1) Paying without a judgment or order of a competent court, or leave of the High Court first obtained, any claim for an election expense which is not sent in to the election agent, or is sent in to him after the time limited for sending in claims.

(2) Paying without such leave any election expenses after the time limited for paying such expenses.

**ILLEGAL PAYMENTS.**—Knowingly providing money for any payment prohibited by the Act, or in excess of the maximum amount allowed, or for replacing any money so expended, except where the same may have been previously allowed by the High Court to be an exception from the Act.

(2) Corruptly inducing or procuring any candidate to withdraw in consideration of any payment or promise of payment, and the withdrawing of any candidate in pursuance of any such inducement or procurement.

(3) Making or knowingly receiving a payment or making or knowingly being party to a contract for payment for the purpose of procuring or promoting a candidate's election, for bands of music, torches, flags, banners, cockades, ribbons, or other marks of distinction, unless an exception be allowed. These payments and contracts are illegal as soon as an election has begun, but to that time are not illegal.

**ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT.**—(1) Engaging or employing for payment or promise of payment, any person, or being so engaged or employed, knowing that the same is contrary to law, for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of a candidate, in any capacity whatever, except those authorised by the Act, and except so far as payment is authorised by the Act, and subject to any exception that may be allowed.

**ILLEGAL HIRING.**—(1) Knowingly letting or hiring, lending or borrowing, employing or using, for the conveyance of electors to or from the poll, any

public stage or hackney carriage, or any horse or other animal kept or used for drawing the same, or any carriage, horse, or other animal kept or used to let out for hire.

(2) Hiring or using as a committee room any prohibited premises and letting such premises knowing that the same are to be so used.

**MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES.**—Printing, publishing, or posting, or causing to be printed, published, or posted, any bill, placard, or poster, having reference to an election which does not bear upon its face the name and address of the printer and publisher.

Directly or indirectly giving or providing to any voter or inhabitant any cockade, ribbon, or other mark of distinction. The word "inhabitant" includes the wives and children of voters.

## ANNUAL GATHERINGS OF LABOUR AGENTS

The annual meetings of the Lancashire and Cheshire District and of the London and Home Counties District of the Labour Agents' Association, were held on the 21st and 22nd of April respectively, and in each case were consummated by the annual dinner which followed, and which functions were voted in every way a success.

The annual gatherings of the Lancashire and Cheshire District were marred only by the fact that the chairman, Coun. Sam Hague, J.P., and the secretary, Mr. E. J. Hookway, were both absent owing to indisposition. A successful and largely-attended business meeting in the afternoon dealt with routine matters and approved a satisfactory programme of technical and educational addresses at future monthly meetings. At the dinner which was held at the Grosvenor Hotel, the guests included Mr. R. J. Davies, M.P., Mr. Dan Irving, M.P., Mr. J. E. Sutton, M.P., Mr. H. Drinkwater (General Secretary), Mrs. Anderson, National District Women's Organiser, and Mr. J. H. Standing, National District Organiser. An entertaining programme was gone through, together with the toast list, the toasts being "The Labour Party," "The Agents' Association," "The Parliamentary Labour Party," and "The Daily Herald." Mr. Frank Edwards, of



Bury, Vice-President of the L. & C. District, presided over both afternoon and evening functions.

As becomes the largest district in the Association, the London and Counties Agents held a brilliant function at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street. The annual meeting was well attended, and many points of vital interest were dealt with. Mr. E. P. Wake, the National Agent, was also present and addressed the members. At the dinner following, the guests included the Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson, M.P., Mr. E. P. Wake, National Agent; Mr. H. Drinkwater, General Secretary, and Mr. T. E. Naylor, M.P. The Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes, M.P., was unable to be present, as promised.

Quite a large number of Parliamentary candidates attended, the total attendance numbering about 120. The toast of the "Parliamentary Labour Party" was proposed by Coun. Miss Mabel Crout, J.P., chair of the London District, and was responded to by Mr. Arthur Henderson, who recalled the fact that he was probably the oldest agent present, and whose pronouncements on the present in-

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dustrial trouble and the outlook on the political field, were listened to with deepest attention. Mr. T. E. Naylor, M.P., proposed "The Association" in a humorous speech, to which Mr. H. Drinkwater, General Secretary, suitably replied. Somewhat incongruously it fell to Mr. Wake, one of the original members of the Association, and its first and present President, to respond to the toast of "The Guests" suitably put by Mr. R. T. Windle. Mr. Wake interestingly replied. Altogether a thoroughly enjoyable evening passed, not without profit and instruction from the speeches that were given. The thanks of the diners were due to the artistes who contributed to their enjoyment, and to Coun. A. J. Bamford, who had been indefatigable in the arrangements for a successful evening.

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### A FORM OF SUB-AGENT'S APPOINTMENT

For the benefit of those who may find themselves justified in the appointment of sub-agents we append below a form of appointment.

Appointments may, of course, be typed with carbon sheets, and it goes without saying that a copy should be kept. It will be noted that Schedule 1 permits the mention of several polling districts, and these should invariably be named in any appointment. Schedule 2 should state quite clearly any remuneration or expenses that may be agreed upon. An appointment should be made even if the proposed sub-agent is to work without payment, and the second schedule would in that case bear the word nil. The third schedule is capable of infinite variation, and the clause here printed merely deals with spending authority.

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I, ..... Election Agent for .....  
a Candidate at the above election, do hereby appoint you to act as my  
SUB-AGENT for the Polling District(s) named in the first Schedule hereto  
attached, from the present date for the purpose of the said election, and I  
agree to pay you the sum or sums mentioned in the second Schedule  
attached, as a fee to include all expenses other than election expenses as  
covered in the authority mentioned in Schedule No. 3 hereto attached,  
subject always to the faithful carrying out of the instructions hereto attached  
and such instructions limiting or extending the said authority as may here-  
after be issued by me.

(Signed).....

Date.....

Election Agent.

### FIRST SCHEDULE.

### SECOND SCHEDULE.

### THIRD SCHEDULE.

Authority.

Authority is hereby given to incur election expenses not exceeding a total of £10 (ten pounds) in all to the close of the election. In computing such authority no account will be taken of expenses of speakers supplied by the Central Office or of supplies of literature, stationery, etc., centrally supplied. The authority will be charged with all other expenses of meetings, printing, staff, etc., engaged by you, up to and including the close of the election. This authority may be extended or limited in writing by the Election Agent at any time.



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## POISON—FOR FEEBLE MINDS

Our Coalition friends are very busy circulating a pamphlet in some constituencies, appropriately enough, labelled "Poison." The pages of the pamphlet are principally devoted to alleged extracts of a scurrilous nature from the speeches or writings of "advanced" thinkers, and the object of this dirty little publication is, of course, to throw the onus of these extracts upon the Labour Party. Not alone are the extracts in many cases drawn from the context, but in some cases they are from the writings of those who are opponents of the Labour Party! We believe that the publication and distribution referred to is likely to do more harm to the Party who use it than the Party it is intended to damage, for it forms an admirable thesis for what the Labour Party does not stand for—and for which some of our opponents do. By inference every revolutionist, atheist, and free lover, represents the policy of the Labour Party. Yet we seem to have some recollection of revolutionaries in English and foreign history who have certainly been Imperialists of the truest dye; also of writings of Mr. Charles Bradlaugh and even Mr. Balfour himself that could be quoted with equal force against our enemies. We are open to wager, too, that if a census of the asylums, the prisons, or of the great criminals of the past century were taken, it would show an overwhelming majority against the Labour Party. Our friends are welcome to the compliment, and a pamphlet could be filled with the lunacy and criminology of Liberals and Tories, some of them even M.P's. Yet these would prove no more than the pamphlet under notice proves, and one would think that the stupid policy of attributing every evil impulse to Labour, had already proved ineffective to prevent its progress. If these methods are the best our opponents can fight with, then Labour's victory won't be long. But, after all, are they not but pure copyists of Mr. Lloyd George himself?

APARTMENTS. Mrs. Bairstow,  
Adswood House, 72 Circular Road,  
Douglas (five minutes from prom.).